

April 26, 1985  
(a.m.)

Brent sick today. I'll be filling in for her. The concrete rings for the well were put in place last evening. We will continue with excavating the well after almost three weeks. Pat went the first one down the shaft. He wanted to check the integrity of the concrete cylinders. They appear to be okay, but he told us we must first dig on the northwest side in order to shift the entire structure slightly that way. This will lessen some of the pressure on the wooden platform.

After pulling Pat out, he gave us some safety precautions and tips on our operation here at the well. Then, Tom, Kathy, and Jeff each took a turn being lowered into the shaft.

It's now after ten o'clock, and Kathy has been excavating for over half an hour. She is still finding large pottery sherd and a fill with charcoal fluff, the same as what I came across on the last day of excavation several weeks ago. Kathy has both an artifact bag and a soil sample bag. Their numbers are as follows:

Artifact bag # 2963 }  
Soil sample bag # 2964 }

She is also finding ceramics, bone, brick, glass, mortar, and plaster. David and Robert are raising and lowering the artifact buckets, as well as guarding for Kathy's safety.

Qa.

$$2 \text{ M} = 79 \frac{\text{in}}{\cancel{\text{m}}} \\ \underline{- 95 \frac{\text{in}}{\text{m}}} =$$

(8 ft.)

$$2.42 \text{ cm} = 1 \text{ in.} \quad 12 \overline{) 95} \\ \underline{96} \quad 8$$

$$40 \text{ cm} = 16 \frac{\text{in}}{\cancel{\text{cm}}} \\ \underline{- 2 \text{ in.}}$$

$$12 \text{ m } 8 \frac{1}{2}$$

Kathy says that due west, there is a band of soil with few artifacts and more densely packed. It is lighter than the other fill. The Munsell color is 10YR 4/6 - dark yellowish brown. It appears to be a loose silt with a somewhat sandy texture. We are continuing to dig in twenty centimeter arbitrary levels. The riffs have shifted to the west so that they are no longer exerting pressure on the wooden platform. Kathy says there is a concentration of brick in the center of the shaft. She has also noted that the soil is getting considerably mister.

The weather today is sunny and pleasant, and getting quite warm. Kathy says it is cool and comfortable down in the well. Lunch time.

After lunch, I was lowered into the well shaft to test the cable for strength. It held, thank God. Now, David has gone down to excavate for a little while. It's almost one o'clock. We just took an elevation reading to determine how far down we are. We are at five meters, using the bottom of the "I" beam as our top datum. Bob suggested that we use nylon cord and knot it at one meter intervals. Then, we can use a folding rule to determine the actual depth in centimeters. Robert and I marked a piece of nylon cord at one meter intervals for ten meters. As we dig deeper, we can add more rope to the end.

David tells me that he is also getting plaster at the south end of the well. The soil appears to be about the same that Kathy had, as do the artifacts. We are on our third wheelbarrow full of dirt, and after it is full we are going to take a final elevation reading for this level. We will then be ready to start the next level.

The bottom elevation was 5 meters, 6 centimeters. Artifacts included bone, fish bone, oyster shells, bricks, plaster, ceramics, crockery. David is beginning the next level and Robert will go down in about half an hour to finish it. The concrete rings are slowly descending into the shaft.

New bag numbers have been assigned. They are as follows:

Artifact bag #2991  
Soil sample bag #2992

The level is identified as K1002-029. The bottom of this level should be at 5 meters 26 centimeters.

It is now almost three o'clock, and Robert has switched places with David in the well shaft. Kathy is off to get a wheel barrow.

Pat, David, and myself shifted the concrete shaft to the southwest because of an object protruding from under the lip of the bottom ring. It proved to be a metal object, semi-circular in shape. Kathy had thought it was a brick, and David, a stone.

Sburn-dang  
thai restaurant  
628 or 655 King St  
Alexandria

May 21, 1985 -

Oxon Hill - Well crew

Crew present -

Ramona F.

Jim B.

~~David Mallet~~

Kathy Mulchrowe

(1)

Brenda out with sprained ankle today.

Placed a new ring as the initial step today - no problem.

Work ended at 13m 57cm yesterday - which means we  
are in the middle of level 13m 47cm/13m 67cm

13m 47cm to 13m 67cm :

1/2 of level left to finish as of this A.M.

Ramona F. takes 1<sup>st</sup> turn - well ready to begin excavation at 8:40 A.M.

Ramona arrived at bottom at 8:49 - 9 minutes to bottom.

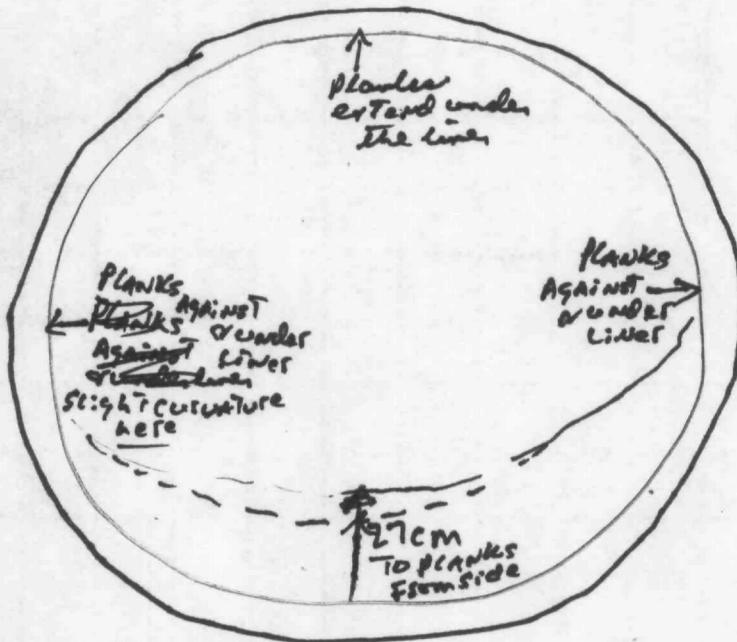
The soil coming out is a soupy organic (gray-black)  
stained clayey sand. Sand content seems slightly  
higher than clay content.

NOTE: When the ~~new~~ rings moved down yesterday they  
contracted the space between the boards in the  
bottom - This is creating problems.

Soil turns to pure organic stained clay on south side  
of level or behind the vertical planks.

The clay surrounds the boards, with different material  
within a circular area with the planks. The area  
within the planks contains all of the water & the  
matted straw and/or pine needles. Could the  
boards be a swamp in the bottom of the  
well?

2



Vertical  
planes or  
3 crushed  
planes on  
sides

4

depth to top of board  
below X-Bar is 12m 3cm

To bottom of boards MS now defined is 13m 51cm

This is higher than start point of day!!! -  
Deposits obviously bowed up when the liner slipped  
down at end of clay yesterday  
We started excavating inside planes - immediately  
started finding artifacts again - none  
noted in excavation of clay outside of  
planes.

Beige tan clay w/some organic staining  
encountered almost immediately - removing

(3)

high organic neck soils above beige/brown clay before we proceed further.

Note:- beige/brown clay just a localized lump.  
Fat - goes into well with probe.

1. planks part of structure built in place  
they don't appear to be parts of barrel, Though could be.

Probe came into contact with several planks & less than 2' below present level.  
Plank struct. goes under shaft to N - missed 18 in - 2' to N - prob. create stability problem for liner as we cont. down.

Planks prob. so solid ~~but too~~ because they may be nailed to a lower set of boards.

A gravel layer begins a few inches below present level. May be a filter of the "settling basin" - gravel layer is more than a foot thick

May or may not be in sub soil on south side:

STRATEGY:  
Take down in two sections - (1) soil from inside a fill & sand the soil from outside the planks  
(2) the S.I do to construction \* devoid of artifacts  
Planks not perfectly circular - maybe an oval struct

H<sub>2</sub>O slowly seeping in - thinks we've gone through an aquifer. Some seepage around bottom rings <sup>from</sup> this. Rings seem to be holding majority of H<sub>2</sub>O back.

Bag #5 - 3699  
Soil - 3700

13m 47cm → 13m 67cm  
13m 47cm → 13m 67cm

Resumed excavation after inspection by  
P Darrow. Kathy Mulchrone in well.

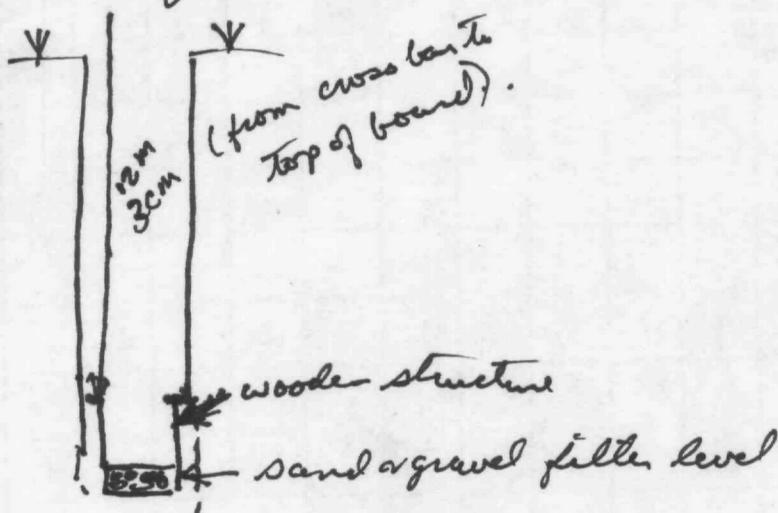
Pockets of rusty sand & beige/tan clay inside  
of planks.

Note - there are artifacts at interface of metal &  
sand-gravel stratum below.

Bag #3738 - gravel & sand stratum - begins at 13m <sup>75</sup>  
Soil 3739 ~~62cm~~

13m <sup>75</sup>  
~~62~~ cm → :

Begin layer of sand & gravel that probably  
acted as a filter in the bottom of the well.



digging against boards to south - solid gravel & sand

gravel or sand remained solid for 10cm + hit a pocket of organic soil around 13m 85cm had glass frags.

— May 22, 1985

crew present	Ramona A.
	Jim E.
	David Mallet
	Kathy Matchrome

Brenda out w/ sprained ankle. Casing has not slid since yesterday, as of this morning.

This mornings' depth is 13m 86cm

P. Darrow taking over for Brenda for 2<sup>nd</sup> day. Thunderstorms last night dumped a good bit of water into the well. Well rings centered slightly to NW this morning, with erosion evident between lines & shaft edge on south side. We will try to clear the subsoil and boards a bit this A.M. so that the lines can slide into place. Situation w/ lines not critical yet, but will be if we cannot compensate.

1<sup>st</sup> plank removed is 95cm long by a maximum of 10cm wide by 2cm thick. This plank looks like a section of barrel stave, but not complete length. The plank is beveled on the end like a barrel stave. No evidence of barrel bands.

(6)

Removing soil believed to be subsoil on outside -

Designating that differently from inside.

Depth to top of subsoil/outside soil is 13m 49cm -

Bag # 383781 KI 1002 062

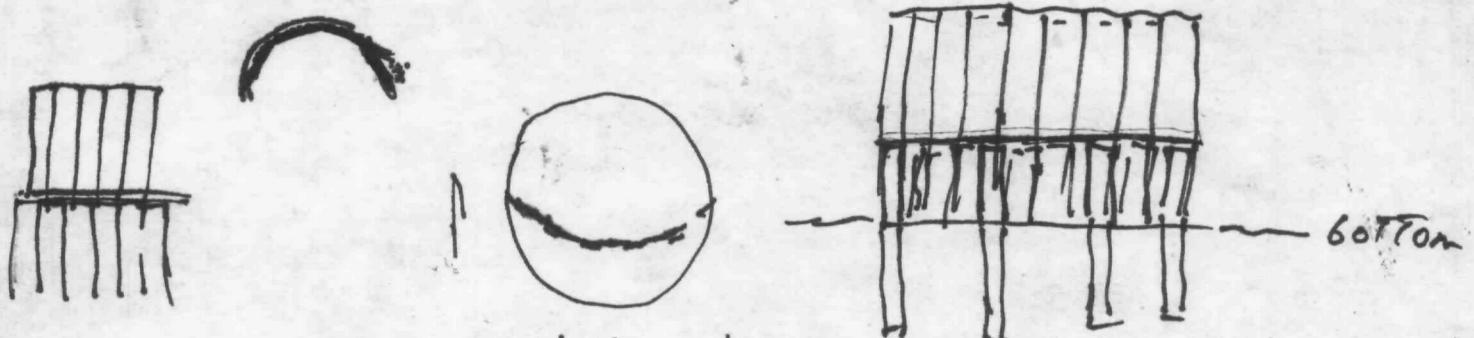
~~Soil sample # 3782~~ KI 1002 062

13m 49cm - Subsoil / soil outside boards.

Soil varies from organic stained sandy clay to  
orange yellow clay w/sand.

Board (partial) removed. Intact width - 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  cm wide  
1 $\frac{1}{2}$  cm thick - different from last board - it is  
slightly wider. It is flat - no curvature.

Definite cross pieces observed in trying to dismantle  
wooden structure. - Some appear to be pounded into the  
ground - Perhaps anchoring wooden structure.



wooden hoop or band found ~~a~~ running horizontally at the  
inside of structure and on top of anchoring pieces.

Wattles found on inside - barrel hoop equivalent.

13m 3cm - OUTSIDE ~~OF~~ SOIL AREA - STARTING NEW COVER.

13.71 - 13.76

Bag # 3782

KI-1002 062

13.76 →

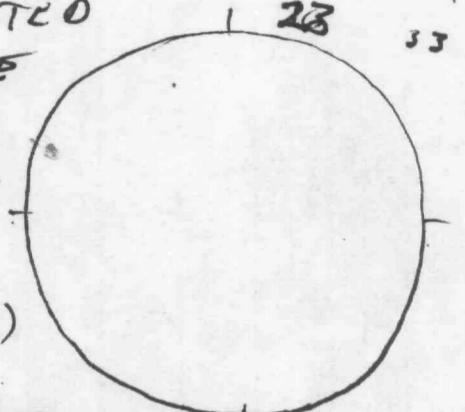
~~out~~ outside board.

We have decided to attack the plants to get those out of the way - Pulled a few small ones & then tied bucket rope to large planks & pulled - very big - Have Dick B coming to photograph it while fresh. Whole board - 2 <sup>1/4</sup> ic  
holes about + one foot above bottom bench.

PLANK THAT CAME OUT WAS LOCATED  
18 CM FROM THE SOUTH, + 44 FROM THE  
WEST. A SECOND ONE, located next to  
THE 1<sup>st</sup>, was 23 FROM THE SOUTH, + 33 CM FROM  
THE ~~NORTH~~ WEST. (SECOND IS IN PIECES.)

2nd full board came out - it  
measures ~~2.11~~ 2m 11cm long - (83")

2 more planks same size (2.11) as  
#2 - What appears to be red paint evident  
smaller planks also removed.



18 44  
23 33

5/28/85 [BGR]

Crew present

1 of 2

James Errante

Ramona Avallone

David Mallet

Brenda Randolph out w/ sprained Ankle  
J.E. taking notes

R.A. begins by digging out side of planks  
completing level K10/002064 at 14.16

bag # 3805

SS # 3806

At this level soil remains a dark gray blue organic clay.

New level begun on inside of planks  
at 14.15 to 14.35

K10/002065

bag # 3825

SS # 3826

On the inside soil contains more organic straw like substance concentrated on the Northern side of the structure. Overall soil is an organic silty dark brown clay with isolated pockets of very light brown (<sup>sandy</sup> (blond) clay.

R.A. encounters light covering fist size cobbles  
at 14.32 .

This level is completed at 14.35

= R.A. begins new level on outside of planks

K10/002066

14.16 → 14.36

Bag # 3854

SS # 3865

5/28

(2)

D.M. begins working in well after lunch to finish  
K101002066 at 14.36 m  
Bag # 3854

Soil continues to be a dark gray blue  
organic silty clay

D.M. begins new level inside of rings  
K101002067 14.35 → 14.55  
Bag # 3861  
S.S. # 3862

Shoe leather and womens heel(shoe) found  
in east of inner planks.

D.M. removes more planks (6+) from  
eastern area of planks.

- D.M. Finishes day at 14.48 m.  
Soil is a dark gray blue organic silty  
clay mixed with a very light brown silty sand

5/29/85 (3)

K.M. finds small rounded slats running horizontally and more shoe leather.

K.M. uncovers another set of vertically running boards just below where previous boards were pulled from. These boards appear to be the same size ~~(width)~~ as the boards above.

Crew Jim Errante Bob D Vinn  
Romona Malone  
David Maller  
Kathy Mulchiono

5-29-85 ⑨

Jim goes into well first - ~~He's bent~~ arrives in bottom at 8:50 AM.

Continuing level K101002067 14.35m → 14.55

~~Picked up~~ from 14.50. Working inside planks.

As Jim undercutts casings, notices artifacts + soil dropping from ~~above~~ behind casing - (i.e. mixing of other levels)

Soil continues to be bluish gray (dk) organic silty clay.

Encounters soil change in W. gust inside planks - at this point uncertain how extensive this is - ~~not~~ an orangey light brown sandy soil (may be seeping in from outside of boards?)

In the west a horizontal board <sup>small</sup> <sup>(twins planks)</sup> (bevelled on edges)  
laying in a rough N-S direction - Neat edges?  
unlike the vertical planks. Edges cut in diagonal, like

so -

New level begun on outside of planks K101002069

\* Have gone to outside because J.E noticed a possibly floor approx 1 foot below 14.55 meters when probing

K101002069 Bag # 3883 14.36 - 14.56  
SS 3884.

Jim goes to 14.44 → start pulling J.E up at  
x 10:15pm.

5/29/85

Bob Dunn goes down at 10:15 & continues digging outside of boards.

B.D. removes 4 of the boards from the vertical structure, leaving one ~~one~~ for depth measurements.

After lunch Kathy Mulchrone begins digging. She continues level K101002069 to 14.56. ~~With~~

With boards having been removed by B.D. it is difficult to distinguish the inside from the outside of the structure. Kathy continues digging by following difference in the soil type, and finishes level.

→ Void K101002068 f

New Provenience  
K101002070  
Bag # 3905  
S.S. # 3906

The next level contains both the inside and outside of where the structure once stood. This will be from 14.56 M to 14.76 M

K101002070

Bag # 3905  
S.S. # 3906

This has been done because of difficulties of distinguishing inside & out, and since the outside is mainly sterile soil. Very light brown soil continues to be mixed with soils inside of the structure. There also is more organic straw substance in the N.W. area ~~&~~ Near cement casing.